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AF TRIMS WEIGHT STANDARDS

Air Force members 31 years of age or older after Nov. 1, 1981, must comply with Air Force weight standards set for service members 17 to 30 years of age.

The announcement by Air Force officials here follows a revision to the Department of Defense directive on physical fitness and weight control. The new weight standards chart will have just two columns, one for height and one for maximum weight.

There will be a grace period ending April 15, 1982, for those in the 31-and-older group to meet the new standard. According to Tactical Air Command officials, TAC members participating in the weight control program who habitually fail to meet their weight-loss goals will now have to answer to a higher authority.

The new rule makes 0-6 commander-level counselling mandatory for those who fail to lose an average of six pounds in 60 days for more than two periods.

900,000 VETS LOSE GI BILL THIS YEAR

Time is running out for some 900,000 veterans to use educational benefits of the GI Bill, now in its 37th year.

About one-fifth of 4.3 million eligible veterans will lose their eligibility for benefits this year, according to the Veterans Administration. The law permits a veteran to use the education benefits within 10 years following discharge from service, or by Dec. 31, 1989, whichever is earlier.

In a related story, Congressional legislation signed into law last August a bill which ended or reduced four Veterans Administration programs that failed to achieve their original objectives. The VA estimates that \$110 million will be saved toward carrying out the pledge that important veterans benefits will not be curtailed.

The law ends most subsidized flight training, reduced payments for correspondence training, put severe restrictions on education loans to veterans receiving education payments and changed dental and burial benefits for some veterans.

Flight Training. Effective Oct. 1, 1981, VA payments for flight training ended for all those not participating in the program on August 31.

Correspondence Training. Because of studies that show extremely high dropout rates among correspondence trainees and high incidences of fraud and abuse, the VA will only reimburse 55 percent instead of 70 percent of the cost of training.

Educational Loans. Ending for most veterans is a special program which GI Bill students could receive, in addition to their GI Bill payments, low interest loans from VA.

Dental Care. Former service members may now receive free VA dental care up to 90 days after leaving military service instead of up to one year.

Burial Benefits. A burial allowance of \$300, previously available to all war veterans, will be limited to veterans eligible for VA pension or compensation and to those who die in VA medical facilities.